

Lewis and Clark County Weed Board

Meeting Minutes
Regularly Scheduled Meeting
September 2, 2020 at 1:00pm
Weed District - Shop
3402 Cooney Drive
Helena, MT 59602

Members Present

- **Rob McDonough** - Chair
- **Judith Anne Vincent** - Board Member
- **Joe Redding** - Board Member
- **Dave Lewis** - Board Member
- **Orville Johnson** - Board Member
- **Jim McCormick** – Lewis and Clark County Board of County Commissioners

Staff Present

- **Christian Lehnert** – Weed Coordinator, Lewis and Clark County Public Works
- **Eric Griffin** – Director, Lewis and Clark County Public Works

Guests Present

- **Craig Marr** – Parks Superintendent, City of Helena

Call to Order

Rob McDonough called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Joe Redding motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Orville Johnson, the agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Previous Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2020 motioned by Rob McDonough, all in favor. August 12, 2020 minutes were not recorded so the minutes are shorter than they generally are. Minutes approved with no changes.

Comments from the Public:

No Public Comments

Action Items:

No Action Items

Staff Reports:**Christian Lehnert:**

Budget report has been sent out in packets; Christian explains we are sitting where we should which is about 8% each month. There is discussion on if gas prices this year had an impact on the budget. Eric Griffin states it is hard to tell at this point as there has only been 2 months in this fiscal year. Jim McCormick asks about the budgeted amount for the education portion and why it went down. Christian explains that we just have not spent as much as we had in the past. Social media also plays a roll in education which is a free source. There is currently a Lewis and Clark County Weed Facebook page which Christian updates every couple of days. Budget is accepted as proposed, all in favor.

This season is being finished up, and all major projects have been finished and we are working on billing. There are currently only 2 seasonal employees left and they are working on winterizing the equipment.

In the process of hiring a new administrative assistant for the weed district/special district, Christian is hopeful to have someone on by next month but will have to see how things go. Eric said it is very possible they may not have anyone hired by the next meeting. Christian stated they goal is to have someone by mid-October.

There is discussion on State Statue of the Weed Board and Weed Board Members as there has been question as to who is Christian (Weed Coordinator's) boss. Eric Griffin, Public Works Director is the supervisor of the Weed Coordinator. When the Weed Board was moved under the Public Works Department, they became part of Public Works.

Discussion:

There is additional discussion about the previous Weed Coordinator being under the Board which was how the structure was before being under Public Works. Eric would like to clarify this in the next month. Judith Anne would like to see if there is a paper trail of all of this documentation.

Judith Anne has a list of nineteen items she believes there are issues on that need dealt with. There is discussion regarding these nineteen items and what to do moving forward.

Expanding weed education is discussed as compliance has become a struggle upon landowners. Jim McCormick urges the Weed Board to come up with a plan/resources to expand education in the County. During discussion regarding compliance, Jim McCormick states the County Attorney is the Attorney for the Board.

Christian would like the Board Members to know the Weed Calendars are out and he would like the Board members to distribute them so they don't just sit and expire.

Eric asks for direction from the Board on what to do with the list from Judith Ann. Rob says a lot of the questions have been answered but asks everyone to take it home for homework and go over it the next month and if there is anything further to discuss it can be done next meeting.

Jim McCormick thanks Christian and his weed spraying crew for all of the work completed this year.

Items for Next Meeting:

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was presented by Orville Johnson, seconded by Judith Anne Vincent the motion passed. Meeting adjourned 2:36 p.m.